

DETAILED ACTION

Notice of Amendment

1. In response to the amendments filed on 12/29/2008 and 01/30/2009, amended claim(s) 1, 8, 9, and 14 and cancelled claim(s) 4 is/are acknowledged. The current rejections of the claim(s) 1-4 and 7-14 is/are *withdrawn*. The following is/are set forth:

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Weindi Weinstein on 04/02/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 11 should read as follows:

11. A guide wire according to claim 8, wherein a content of the second material in said surface layer is increased stepwise or increased gradually toward the outermost [surface]periphery of said intermediate portion.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-3 and 7-14 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art does not disclose, teach, and/or fairly suggest a guidewire, comprising *inter alia*: a center layer comprised of a first material; a mixture layer disposed on the center layer and comprising a decreased content of said first material towards an outer surface of said mixture layer and an increased content of a second material, harder than said first material, towards the outer surface; and/or a surface layer comprised of said second material and defining an outermost periphery of the guidewire.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments, see pages 6-8, filed 12/29/2008 and 01/30/2009, with respect to the allowability of the claims have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of the claims have been withdrawn.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JEFFREY G. HOEKSTRA whose telephone number is (571)272-7232. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8am to 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Max Hindenburg can be reached on (571)272-4726. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Jeffrey G Hoekstra/
Examiner, Art Unit 3736

/Max Hindenburg/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3736